United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

December 3, 2018

The Honorable Neil Chatterjee
The Honorable Cheryl LaFleur
The Honorable Richard Glick
The Honorable Kevin J. McIntyre
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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FEDERAL ENERGY

FEDERAL COMMISSION

Honorable Commissioners,

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I write to express my strong support for the Rio Grande LNG project and the associated Rio Bravo Pipeline proposals for Southwestern Texas. Rio Grande LNG is a large-scale LNG project to be constructed at the Port of Brownsville, a deepwater port in South Texas. The project is expected to bring thousands of jobs to communities in the Rio Grande Valley and throughout Texas.

The expected investment as a result of the project totals between \$17 and \$20 billion for Texas. The project will add more than \$35 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) during construction, and once completed add an additional \$560 million annually during operations. Further, the project is uniquely situated to improve the ability of U.S. natural gas to be exported to consumers around the world, which will help our nation mitigate trade deficits due to our ability to deliver large volumes of natural gas from Texas.

On October 12, 2018, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Rio Grande LNG project. I appreciate FERC's continued commitment to the review of U.S. LNG projects, and look forward to the timely issuance of a final EIS and approval for the Rio Grande LNG project. FERC's final approval of this project will unleash the additional natural gas export potential of the U.S. and the State of Texas, driving significant economic, energy, trade, and environmental benefits for generations to come.

I look forward to your update on the project and its status within the Commission.

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U.S. Senator

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